

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Wright for the indication that the subject matter recited in Claim 1, and presumably also the subject matter recited in dependent Claim 2, is allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete the recitation defining that the third rotating element is connected to the motor. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim rejection based on the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

New dependent Claims 3-6 have been added by way of this Amendment. The subject matter recited in Claim 3 is discussed in the third full paragraph on page five of the application, the subject matter recited Claim 4 is discussed in the fifth full paragraph beginning on page five of the application, the subject matter recited in Claim 5 is described in the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page three of the application, and the subject matter recited in dependent Claim 6 is discussed in the second paragraph on page five of the application and in the third full paragraph on page six of the application.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

As a final point, the comments at the bottom on page two of the Official Action are noted. With specific regard to the comments that the primary clutch selectively connects the second element to the output shaft and the secondary clutch selectively connects the third element to the output shaft, it is noted that Claim 1 actually recites that the primary clutch selectively transmits rotation of the second rotating element to

the output shaft and that the secondary clutch selectively transmits rotation of the third rotating element to the output shaft. It is understood that the comments in the Official Action are not intended to imply that Claim 1 recites anything different than that which the claim itself sets forth.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 24, 2004

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